

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03707 142056Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 142020Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8529

S E C R E T AMMAN 3707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO US SA SY

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING-AIR DEFENSE AND LEBANON

1. KING WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME BY TELEPHONE LATE EVENING JULY 14 LOCAL. RAISED TWO SUBJECTS: AIR DEFENSE AND TALK WHICH HE HAD JUST COMPLETED WITH ASAD OVER TELEPHONE ABOUT LEBANON.

2. ON AIR DEFENSE HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER CABLE FROM HIS AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA SAYING THAT SAUDIS HAD BRIEFED HIS AMBASSADOR ON TALK WHICH THEY HAD HAD WITH AMBASSADOR PORTER IN JIDDA. KING WAS INFORMED THAT US IN JIDDA KNEW NOTHING ABOUT PROPOSAL WHICH I HAD MADE TO HIM TEN DAYS AGO BEFORE HE WENT TO JIDDA. I SAID THAT I HAD RECEIVED NO REPORTS ABOUT WHICH I COULD GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION BUT THAT IT SEEMED UNUSUAL THAT SAUDIS HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE NOT ABLE TO TALK WITH THEM IN JIDDA ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL TO JORDAN. I TOLD THE KING I WOULD SEND OUT A TELEGRAM IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK RESPONSE.

3. YOU ALREADY HAVE MY RECOMMENDATION THAT I BRIEF KING ON FACT THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH SAUDIS AND THAT WE WILL PROVIDE SAUDIS WITH DETAILS OF OUR PROPOSAL. I RECOMMEND EARLY APPROVAL OF LOW KEY APPROACH TO KING TO END UNCERTAINTY HERE WHICH MIGHT WELL RESULT IN FURTHER FOUL UP IF LEFT UNCLARIFIED.

4. KING ALSO REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT ASAD. LINE WAS UNCLEAR, KING SAID, BUT WHAT HE MADE OUT
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WAS THAT LAST MEETING IN CAIRO OF ARAB LEAGUE GOT ABSOLUTELY

NOWHERE. KING SAID THAT ASAD HAD BECOME CONCERNED THAT LEVEL OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON WAS GROWING, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE CUBANS. KING DEFINITELY SAID THAT ASAD HAD CLAIMED THAT HE EXPECTED CUBANS TO BECOME INVOLVED ON SIDE OF PLO AND LEFTISTS. KING SAID "WHAT RIGHT HAVE THEY TO INTERVENE HERE, THIS IS NOT AND CANNOT BECOME ANOTHER ANGOLA. IF THEY COME IN YOU KNOW WHAT ACTION I WILL HAVE TO TAKE TO STOP THEM". KING THEN SAID HE HAS NOTHING

ON HIS OWN TO CONFIRM WHAT ASAD HAD TOLD HIM, BUT DID ASK SPECIFICALLY

IF WE COULD GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION WHAT BACK IMMEDIATELY WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE WHICH WOULD CONFIRM OR DENY POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. I TOLD KING I WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK ANY RESPONSE WHICH THEY COULD OFFER IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE REPORTED.

5. KING ALSO REPORTED HE WILL BE GOING TO IRAN TO VISIT SHAH IN NEXT TWO DAYS.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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